

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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R 151528Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5574
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR PINT PFOR PL
SUBJ: POLISH PRESS NAMES ITS FOES

REF: (A) WARSAW 8780, 8617 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL), (B) WARSAW 8363
(NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. POLISH AUTHORITIES HAVE STEPPED UP THEIR ATTACKS AGAINST THE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES OF UNNAMED "ANTI-DETENTE" AND "ANTI-POLISH" FORCES. IN ITS DECEMBER 13 EDITION, TRYBUNA LUDU IDENTIFIES THE OPPONENTS AND THEIR CRITICISMS FOR THE FIRST TIME. IT LAUNCHES A REBUTTAL WHICH AGAIN EMPHASIZES POLISH ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ASSERTS THAT PRESENT DIFFICULTIES ARE TEMPORARY. THE "OPPONENTS" ARE ALTERNATELY CAST AS NAIVE, IN-EFFECTUAL HAS-BEENS AND DANGEROUS ENEMIES OF THE POLISH FATHERLAND. AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION IS BEING POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT, ATTENTION ALAN THOMPSON. END SUMMARY.

2. MICHAL MISIORNY IDENTIFIED THE "ANTI-POLISH" ELEMENTS REFERRED
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TO OVER THE PAST FOUR MONTHS IN A MAJOR TRYBUNA LUDU ARTICLE ON DECEMBER 13, ENTITLED "FALSE NOTE IN DISCUSSION UNDER THE PRETEXT

OF TRUE CONCERN" (REF A). AMONG THE COLD WAR FORCES ABROAD ARE THE PARIS JOURNAL KULTURA ("SPONSORED BY WELL-KNOWN SOURCES") AND SPRINGER AND STRAUSS NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING DER SPIEGEL, BAYERNKURIER, AND SOLDATENZEITUNG. MISIORNY NAMES THE WORKERS' DEFENSE LEAGUE AS POLAND'S CHIEF DOMESTIC OPPONENT. NO NAMES OF RESIDENT POLES ARE MENTIONED, ALTHOUGH MISIORNY CRITICIZES THE "REVISIONIST" AND "SO-CALLED NEO-POSITIVIST" POLITICAL BEDFELLOWS OF THE WDL ABROAD, INCLUDING B. BRODZINSKI, W. BRUS, L. KOLAKOWSKI, AND K. POMIAN.

3. MISIORNY PRESENTS THE FIRST PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES RAISED BY THE "OPPOSITION". HE SAYS DER SPIEGEL'S (NOVEMBER 15) "GREUELPROPAGANDA" DEPICTION OF POLAND AS A "VERITABLE HELL ON EARTH" IS NOT WORTHY OF ATTENTION. HE QUOTES FROM A PASSAGE WHICH CHARACTERIZES THE JUNE 25 EVENTS AS A "PEOPLE'S UPRISING" IN WHICH SEVENTEEN PEOPLE DIED AND POLICE USED GAS AND RAZOR BLADES TO ATTACK THE CROWD.

4. THE BULK OF THE REBUTTAL IS DEVOTED TO THE INTERNAL DISSIDENTS. MISIORNY PROFESSES INCREDULITY THAT MEMBERS OF THE WDL, "OVER A DOZEN STRONG", ARE LABELED "INTELLECTUALS" BY THE FOREIGN PRESS. ACCORDING TO MISIORNY, THEIR "ASOCIAL AGITATION IS A COMPLETE SEPARATION FROM LIFE AND DAY-TO-DAY AFFAIRS OF OUR COUNTRY." HE CHARACTERIZES VARIOUS FORMULATIONS SUPPORTING PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY (REF B) AS "NONSENSE", BASED ON "AN IDEALIZED IMAGE FROM A NINETEENTH CENTURY TEXTBOOK." HE CHALLENGES THE WDL TO PROVE THAT THE "STREET MOB....DEMAGOGUES....AND BEWILDERED, IMPOTENT PARTICIPANTS IN...THE RADOM EVENTS" CONSTITUTE WORKING CLASS OPPOSITION TO A "TOTALITARIAN STATE" OF "TERRORISM AND REPRISALS". ACCORDING TO MISIORNY, THE MOST DEPLORABLE ASPECT OF THE DISSENT IS ITS CLAIM THAT THE SYSTEM CAUSED POLAND'S TEMPORARY DIFFICULTIES, WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGING THAT POLAND'S "GREAT ECONOMIC, CIVILIZATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRESS, ITS BECOMING ONE OF THE DEVELOPED INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES" IS ALSO A RESULT OF THE SYSTEM. MISIORNY ADMITS THAT THE DISSIDENTS HAVE THE SUPPORT OF "A CERTAIN NUMBER OF ACADEMIC YOUTH" AND "THE NAIVE TRUST OF CERTAIN WESTERN LITERARY FIGURES." THIS IS THE RESULT OF "AN ABUSE OF CONFIDENCE," HE SAYS. ALTHOUGH MISIORNY'S PRINCIPAL THEME IS THAT THE WDL IS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEGLECTIBLE GROUP OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALITY, HE NEVER- THE LESS REPEATS THAT WOL ACTIVITY IS "HARMFUL FOR THE INTERESTS OF OUR STATE AND SOCIETY," AND CLOSES WITH A CALL TO "IDENTIFY" THE VOICES WHO PROMOTE "NEW TENSIONS AND DIFFICULTIES IN THE FATHERLAND."

5. COMMENT: MISIORNY'S ARTICLE COMES AFTER NEARLY TWO WEEKS OF QUIET SINCE GOVERNMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN WLODZIMIERZ JANIUREK PRONOUNCED THE WDL ILLEGAL AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AND HINTED THAT WESTERN NEWSMEN SHOULD DEVOTE THEMSELVES

TO OTHER SUBJECTS.

6. MISIORNY INCLUDES SEVERAL INTERESTING ADMISSIONS: IN ADDITION TO ACKNOWLEDGING THE EXISTENCE OF THE WDL AND STUDENT SUPPORT FOR IT, MISIORNY CONCLUDES THAT "NOT ROBOTS BUT PEOPLE" WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "PAINFUL EXPERIENCE" OF JUNE 25. BY IMPLICATION, HE AFFIRMS THAT THE LEADERSHIP ERRED ON JUNE 24 AND THAT NOT ALL THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE "HOOLIGANS," AS ORIGINALLY MAINTAINED. AN ADMISSION OF THIS WAS REPORTED BY UPI ON DECEMBER 11 IN A RELEASE WHICH STATED, THAT A RETRIAL OF SIX DEMONSTRATORS RECENTLY TOOK PLACE. TWO WERE REPORTEDLY RELEASED, AND TWO OTHERS RECEIVED COMMUTED SENTENCES.

7. MISIORNY'S ARTICLE IS ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF RECENT WARNINGS TO THE WDL THAT REGIME PATIENCE IS WEARING THIN. AT THE SAME TIME, IT AIMS AT DRIVING A WEDGE BETWEEN THE WDL AND ITS ADOPTED WORKER CONSTITUENCY. AT WHAT POINT THE GIEREK LEADERSHIP WOULD DECIDE TO MOVE DECISIVELY AGAINST THE WDL CANNOT BE FORETOLD, BUT IN ANY CASE, IT APPARENTLY WOULD DO SO ONLY IF IT BELIEVED THAT DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN OPINION WOULD NOT BE OUTRAGED.
END COMMENT.
BROWN

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